

### **REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

The present paper is submitted in response to the final Office Action dated August 10, 2006. At that time, claims 11, 13, 15-18 and 20-26 were allowed. The Examiner indicated that claim 3 contained allowable subject matter and would be allowed if rewritten in independent form. At the same time, the Examiner indicated that claims 1-2 and 4-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). The Examiner also objected to claims 4, 5, 12, and 19 under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(c) on grounds that these dependent claims do not further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. These issues are addressed herein.

#### **I. Objection to Claims 4-5, 12, and 19 Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(c)**

As noted above, the Examiner objected to claims 4, 5, 12, and 19 under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(c) on grounds that these dependent claims do not further limit the subject matter of a previous independent claim. As a result of this paper, claim 5 has been cancelled. With respect to claims 4, 12, and 19, these claims have been amended so that they further limit the previous independent claim. Specifically, these claims now recite that "inflation fluid is prevented from passing through the throat upon activation of the inflator." Withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

#### **II. Claim Rejections**

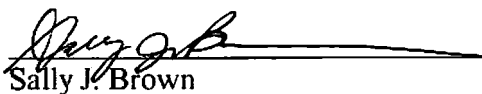
As noted above, the Examiner rejected claims 1-2 and 4-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). As a result of this paper, claim 4 has been canceled. At the same time, independent claim 1 has been amended to include the claim elements of dependent claim 3. The Examiner has already indicated that the subject matter recited in claim 3 is allowable. Accordingly, the incorporation of the subject matter of claim 3 into claim 1 means that independent claim 1 is allowable. Similarly, claims 2 and 5-10, which depend from independent claim 1, are similarly allowable. Favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

All of the claims pending in this application have subject matter that has been allowed by the Examiner. Accordingly, this application is in a condition for immediate allowance.

### III. Conclusion

Although this paper is submitted in response to a “final” rejection, Applicants believe that this paper should be entered because it places the application in a condition for immediate allowance. See MPEP § 714.12 (an amendment after final that “will place the application either in condition for allowance or in better form for appeal may be entered.”). Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. If there are any remaining issues preventing allowance of the pending claims that may be clarified by telephone, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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